

OKOLONA MESSENGER.

Democratic in Principle, But Independent in Thought and Action. Devoted to Honesty, Truth and Good Government.

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1915

No. 3.

THE RURAL PRESS THE COUNTY FAIR

The Local Paper a Most Useful Agency on the Farm—The Press, Pulpit and School a Trinity of Influence That Must Be Utilized in Building Agriculture.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

A broad campaign of publicity on the subject of rural life is needed in this state today to bring the problems of the farmers to the forefront. The city problems are blazoned upon the front pages of the metropolitan dailies and echoed in the country press, but the troubles of the farmers are seldom told, except by those who seek to profit by the story, and the glitter of the package oftentimes obscures the substance. A searching investigation into the needs of the farmers will reveal many inherent defects in our economic system that can be easily remedied when properly understood and illuminated by the power of the press.

The rural press, the pulpit and the school are a trinity of powerful influences that the farmer must utilize to their fullest capacity before he can occupy a commanding position in public affairs. These gigantic agencies are organized in every rural community and only await the patronage and co-operation of the farmers to fully develop their energy and usefulness. They are local forces working for the best interests of their respective communities. Their work is to build and their object is to serve. They prosper only through the development and prosperity of the community.

Every farmer in this state should subscribe for the local paper as well as farm periodicals and such other publications as he may find profitable, but he should by all means subscribe for his local paper, and no home should be without it. The local paper is part of the community life and the editor understands the farmer's problems. It is the local press that will study the local problems and through its columns deal with subjects of most vital importance to local life of the community.

A Noble Task.

In too many instances the country papers mimic the city press by giving prominence to scandals, accidents and political agitation. The new rural civilization has placed upon the rural press renewed responsibilities, and enlarged possibilities for usefulness. It cannot perform its mission to agriculture by recording the frailties, the mishaps and inordinate ambitions of humanity, or by filling its columns with the echoes of the struggles of busy streets, or by enchanting stories of city life which lure our children from the farm.

It has a higher and nobler task. Too often the pages of the city dailies bristle with the struggle of ambitious men in their wild lust for power, and many times the flames of personal conflict bear the tender buds of new civilization and illuminate the pathway to destruction. The rural press is the governing power of public sentiment and must hold steadfast to principle and keep the ship of state in the roadstead of progress. The rural press can best serve the interests of the farmers by applying its energies to the solution of problems affecting the local community. It must stem the mighty life current that is moving from the farm to the cities, sweeping before it a thousand boys and girls per day. It has to deal with the fundamental problems of civilization at their fountain head. Its mission is to direct growth, teach efficiency and mold the intellectual life of the country, placing before the public the daily problems of the farmers and giving first attention to the legislative, co-operative, educational and social needs of the agricultural classes within its respective community.

The Power of Advertising.

The influence of advertising is clearly visible in the homes and habits of the farmers, and the advertising columns of the press are making their imprint upon the lives of our people. The farmer possesses the things that are best advertised.

The farmer is entitled to all the advantages and deserves all the luxuries of life. We need more art, science and useful facilities on the farms and many homes and farms are well advanced in this respect, but the advertiser can render a service by teaching the advantages of modern equipment throughout the columns of the rural press.

The farmers are in need of personal leadership. They have political leaders, but they need local industrial community and educational leaders.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer gets more out of the fair than anyone else. The fair to a city man is an entertainment; to a farmer it is education. Let us take a stroll through the fair grounds and linger a moment at a few of the points of greatest interest. We will first visit the mechanical department and hold communion with the world's greatest thinkers.

You are now attending a congress of the mental giants in mechanical science of all ages. They are addressing you in tongues of iron and steel and in language mute and powerful tell an eloquent story of the world's progress. The inventive geniuses are the most valuable farm hands we have and they perform an enduring service to mankind. We can all help others for a brief period while we live, but it takes a master mind to tower into the realm of science and light a torch of progress that will illuminate the pathway of civilization for future generations. The men who gave us the sickle, the binder, the cotton gin and hundreds of other valuable inventions work in every field on earth and will continue their labors as long as time. Their bright intellects have conquered death and they will live and serve mankind on and on forever, without money and without price. They have shown us how grand and noble it is to work for others; they have also taught us lessons in economy and efficiency how to make one hour do the work of two or more; have lengthened our lives, multiplied our opportunities and taken toll off the back of humanity.

They are the most practical men the world ever produced. Their inventions have stood the acid test of utility and efficiency. Like all useful men, they do not seek publicity, yet millions of machines sing their praises from every harvest field on earth and as many plows turn the soil in mute applause of their marvelous achievements.

FARMER RADFORD ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The home is the greatest contribution of women to the world, and the hearthstone is her throne. Our social structure is built around her, and social righteousness is in her charge. Her beautiful life lights the skies of hope and her refinement is the charm of twentieth century civilization. Her graces and her power are the cumulative products of generations of queenly conquest, and her crown of exalted womanhood is jeweled with the wisdom of saintly mothers. She has been a great factor in the glory of our country, and her noble achievements should not be marred or her hallowed influence blighted by the coarser duties of citizenship. American civility should never permit her to bear the burdens of defending and maintaining government, but should preserve her unsmiled from the allied influences of politics, and protect her from the weighty responsibilities of the sordid affairs of life that will crush her ideals and lower her standards. The motherhood of the farm is our inspiration, she is the guardian of our domestic welfare and a guide to a higher life, but directing the affairs of government is not within woman's sphere, and political gossip would cause her to neglect the home, forget to mend our clothes and burn the biscuits.

RURAL SOCIAL CENTERS

We need social centers where our young people can be entertained, amused and instructed under the direction of cultured, clean and competent leadership, where aesthetic surroundings stir the love for the beautiful, where art charges the atmosphere with inspiration and power, and innocent amusements instruct and brighten their lives.

To hold our young people on the farm we must make farm life more attractive as well as the business of farming more remunerative. The school house should be the social unit, properly equipped for nourishing and building character, so that the lives of our people can properly function around it and become supplied with the necessary elements of human thought and activity.

Education is a developing of the mind not a stuffing of the memory. Digest what you read.

Old men have visions, young men have dreams. Successful farmers plow deep while sluggards sleep.

The growing of legumes will retard soil depletion and greatly add to its power to produce.

PAYROLL OF CIVILIZATION MET BY FARMER

WANTS NO "DEADHEADS" ON LIST OF EMPLOYEES.

A CALL UPON THE LAW MAKERS TO PREVENT USELESS TAX UPON AGRICULTURE.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer is the paymaster of industry and as such he must meet the nation's payroll. When industry pays its bill it must make a sight draft upon agriculture for the amount, which the farmer is, compelled to honor without protest. This check drawn upon agriculture may travel to and fro over the highways of commerce; may build cities; girdle the globe with bands of steel; may search hidden treasures in the earth or traverse the skies, but in the end it will rest upon the soil. No dollar will remain suspended in midair; it is as certain to seek the earth's surface as an apple that falls from a tree.

When a farmer buys a plow he pays the man who mined the metal the woodman who felled the tree, the manufacturer who assembled the raw material and shaped it into an article of usefulness, the railroad that transported it and the dealer who sold him the goods. He pays the wages of labor and capital employed in the transaction as well as pays for the tools, machinery, buildings, etc., used in the construction of the commodity and the same applies to all articles of use and diet of himself and those engaged in the subsidiary lines of industry.

There is no payroll in civilization that does not rest upon the back of the farmer. He must pay the bills—all of them.

The total value of the nation's annual agricultural products is around \$12,000,000,000 and it is safe to estimate that 95 cents on every dollar goes to meeting the expenses of subsidiary industries. The farmer does not work more than thirty minutes per day for himself; the remaining thirteen hours of the day's toil he devotes to meeting the payroll of the hired hands of agriculture, such as the manufacturer, railroad, commercial and other servants.

The Farmer's Payroll and How He Meets It.

The annual payroll of agriculture approximates \$12,000,000,000. A portion of the amount is shifted to foreign countries in exports, but the total payroll of industries working for the farmer differs substantially as follows: Railroads, \$1,200,000,000; manufacturers, \$1,355,000,000; mining, \$855,000,000; banks, \$200,000,000; mercantile \$3,500,000,000, and a heavy miscellaneous payroll constitutes the remainder.

It takes the corn crop, the most valuable in agriculture, which sold last year for \$1,692,000,000 to pay off the employees of the railroads; the money derived from our annual sales of livestock of approximately \$2,000,000,000, the yearly cotton crop valued at \$920,000,000; the wheat crop, which is worth \$619,000,000, and the oat crop, that is worth \$410,000,000, are required to meet the annual payroll of the manufacturers. The money derived from the remaining staple crops is used in meeting the payroll of the bankers, merchants, etc. After these obligations are paid, the farmer has only a few bunches of vegetables, some fruit and poultry which he can sell and call the proceeds his own.

When the farmer pays off his bill he has very little left and to meet these tremendous payrolls he has been forced to mortgage homes, work women in the field and increase the hours of his labor. We are, therefore, compelled to call upon all industries dependent upon the farmers for subsistence to retrench in their expenditures and to cut off all unnecessary expenses. This course is absolutely necessary in order to avoid a reduction in wages, and we want, if possible, to retain the present wage scale paid railroad and all other industrial employees.

We will devote this article to a discussion of unnecessary expenses and whether required by law or permitted by the managements of the concerns, is wholly immaterial. We want all waste labor and extravagance of whatever character, cut out. We will mention the full crew bill as

illustrating the character of unnecessary expenses to which we refer.

Union Opposes "Full Crew" Bill.

The Texas Farmers' Union registered its opposition to this character of legislation at the last annual meeting held in Fort Worth, Tex., August 4, 1914, by resolution, which we quote, as follows:

"The matter of prime importance to the farmers of this state is an adequate and efficient marketing system; and we recognize that such a system is impossible without adequate railroad facilities, embracing the greatest amount of service at the least possible cost. We further recognize that the farmers and producers in the end pay approximately 95 per cent of the expenses of operating the railroads, and it is therefore to the interest of the producers that the expenses of the common carriers be as small as is possible, consistent with good service and safety. We, therefore, call upon our lawmakers, courts and juries to bear the foregoing facts in mind when dealing with the common carriers of this state, and we do especially reaffirm the declarations of the last annual convention of our State Union, opposing the passage of the so-called 'full-crew' bill before the thirty-third legislature of Texas."

The farmers of Missouri in the last election, swept this law off the statute book of that state, and it should come off of all statute books where it appears and no legislature of this nation should pass such a law or similar legislation which requires unnecessary expenditures. The same rule applies to all regulatory measures which increase the expenses of industry without giving corresponding benefits to the public. There is oftentimes a body of men assembled at legislatures—and they have a right to be there—who, in their zeal for rendering their fellow-associates a service, sometimes favor an increase in the expenses of industry without due regard for the men who bow their backs to the summer's sun to meet the payroll, but these committees, while making a record for themselves, rub the skin off the shoulders of the farmer by urging the legislature to lay another burden upon his heavy load and under the lash of "be it enacted" goad him on to pull and surge at the traces of civilization, no matter how he may sweat, foam and gall at the task. When legislatures "cut a melon" for labor they hand the farmer a lemon.

The farmers of the United States are not financially able to carry "dead heads" on their payrolls. Our own hired hands are not paid unless we have something for them to do and we are unwilling to carry the hired help of dependent industries unless there is work for them. We must therefore insist upon the most rigid economy.

Legislative House-Cleaning Needed.

While the war is on and there is a full business, we want all legislative bodies to take an inventory of the statute books and wipe off all extravagant and useless laws. A good house-cleaning is needed and economies can be instituted here and there that will patch the clothes of indigent children, rent tired mothers and lift mortgages from despondent homes. Unnecessary workmen taken off and useless expenses chopped down all along the line will add to the prosperity of the farmer and encourage him in his mighty effort to feed and clothe the world.

If any of these industries have surplus employees we can use them on the farm. We have no regular schedule of wages but we pay good farm hands on an average of \$1.50 per day of thirteen hours when they board themselves; work usually runs about nine months of the year and the three months dead time, they can do the chores for their board. If they prefer to farm on their own account, there are more than 14,000,000 acres of idle land on the earth's surface awaiting the magic touch of the plow. The compensation is easily obtainable from Federal Agricultural Department statistics. The total average annual sales of a farm in the continental United States amounts to \$516.00; the cost of operation is \$349.00; leaving the farmer \$176 per annum to live on and educate his family.

There is no occasion for the legislatures making a position for surplus employees of industry. Let them come "back to the soil" and share with us the prosperity of the farm.

When honesty is merely a good policy it is a poor virtue.

Lazy farmers are just as useless as dead ones and take up more room.

When the soul communes with the spirit of nature the back to the farm movement prevails.

There are two kinds of farmers. One tries to take all the advice he hears and the other won't take any at all.

Women Everywhere

Praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Women from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from all sections of this great country, no city so large, no village so small but that some woman has written words of thanks for health restored by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. No woman who is suffering from the ills peculiar to her sex should rest until she has given this famous remedy a trial. Is it not reasonable to believe that what it did for these women it will do for any sick woman?

Wonderful Case of Mrs. Crusen, of Bushnell, Ill.

BUSHNELL, ILL.—"I think all the trouble I have had since my marriage was caused by exposure when a young girl. My work has been housework of all kinds, and I have done milking in the cold and snow when I was too young to realize that it would hurt me. I have suffered very much with bearing down pains in my back and such miserable pains across me, and was very nervous and generally run down in health, but since I have taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound my back never hurts me, my nerves are stronger, and I am gaining in health every day. I thank you for the great help I have received from your medicine, and if my letter will benefit suffering women I will be glad for you to print it."—MRS. JAMES CRUSEN, Bushnell, Ill., Illinois.

A Grateful Atlantic Coast Woman.

HONOLULU, HI.—"I feel it a duty I owe to all suffering women to tell what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did for me. One year ago I found myself a terrible sufferer. I had pains in both sides and such a soreness I could scarcely straighten up at times. My back ached, I had no appetite and was so nervous I could not sleep, then I would be so tired mornings that I could scarcely get around. It seemed almost impossible to move or do a bit of work and I thought I never would be any better until I submitted to an operation. I commenced taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and soon felt like a new woman. I had no pains, slept well, had good appetite and was fat and could do almost all my own work for a family of four. I shall always feel that I owe my good health to your medicine."—MRS. HAYWARD SOWERS, Hodgdon, Maine.

For 30 years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been the standard remedy for female ills. No one sick with woman's ailments does justice to herself if she does not try this famous medicine made from roots and herbs, it has restored so many suffering women to health.

Write to LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., (CONFIDENTIAL) LYNN, MASS., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.



STATEMENT

OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE Okolona Banking Company

located at Okolona, in the County of Chickasaw State of Mississippi

AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, DEC. 31, 1914

made to the Board of Bank Examiners

RESOURCES

Loans and Overdrafts	\$ 84,747.15
Receivables, interest and dividends	8,780.56
Due from Other Banks	797.45
Bonds, securities, etc., owned, including premium on same	500.00
Banking House and Furniture	1,510.02
Due from Other Banks	44,468.72
Exchange and clearing house balances	107.00
Power currency	4,120.00
Gold coin	900.00
Silver coin	5,792.18
All other other of resources viz: County Warrants	22,616.64
Total	\$153,940.20

LIABILITIES

Capital stock Paid in	\$ 50,000.00
Undivided profits, less amount paid for interest, expenses and taxes	14,852.37
Individual Deposits, including savings deposits	73,636.56
Time Certificates of Deposit	15,306.95
Due to Other Banks	144.33
Total	\$153,940.20

I, B. F. Ellis, Cashier, do solemnly swear that the above is a true statement of the financial condition of Okolona Banking Co. located at Okolona in the County of Chickasaw, State of Mississippi, at the close of business on the 31st day of Dec., 1914, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Correct—Attest A. C. COX, R. W. CHANDLER, Directors
State of Mississippi, County of Chickasaw.

Sworn to and subscribed before me by B. F. Ellis this — day of January, 1915.

H. L. MORRISON, Notary Public

My commission expires Aug. 1st, 1916.

Dr. N. A. Love, DENTAL SURGEON

Office over First National Bank, Okolona, Mississippi. Telephone 35